

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:35 pm on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Maureen Kelly, Matt Palmer and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz. Absent Frank Esposito, George Crimmins, Marilyn Murray, Dot Stillinger and Don Travisano.

**CTEC'S PURPOSE:** To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT** -- The meeting schedule for 2015 and January 2016 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at [www.chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org). The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

#### **DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2015 AND JANUARY 2016**

Every first or second Tuesday February through December 2015 and the second Tuesday in January 2016.

Dates are: February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 9, July NO MEETING, August 4 (cancelled), September 8, October 6, November 10, December 1 in 2015 and January 12, 2016.

**DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM, NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN.**

**GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:35-8:05)** S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

Preliminary discussion of approach to Sustainable Jersey effort. To get an idea of options, a re-certification list of potential actions was reviewed. Next re-certification due June 2018.

Sustainable Jersey Action Re-certification submitted June 5, 2015 with 180 points for bronze status; 150 points are required; waiting on confirmation from Sustainable Jersey.

Sustainability Fair - Saturday, Sept. 12th from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. right next to the Farmer's Market at the Train Station.

#### **KAREN SWARTZ REPORT ON SIDEWALKS**

Members discussed the "Safe Routes to School" State grant that was awarded to Chatham Township in the amount of \$578,000. This grant is for sidewalk installation in the vicinity of Lafayette Avenue from Lafayette Avenue School to Watchung Avenue and on the south side of Spring Street from Lafayette Avenue to the Southern Boulevard School path entrance on Dale Drive. Members spoke regarding various environmental aspects and consequences, such as alleviation of traffic, minimal destruction to trees. Township Engineer John Ruschke will give a presentation at the September 10 TC meeting.

#### **REPORT ON INVASIVE REMOVAL AT SOUTHERN BLVD SCHOOL**

M. Palmer, Chair, Invasive Species Subcommittee

Acting on the suggestion of M. Palmer and with the project led by Jennifer Matthews, the Southern Blvd School playground edge was bulldozed by the School District on July 28 and grass seed was spread and watered, with the intention of maintaining the area regularly to help keep the invasive plants away from the playground.

Matt has not been back since the work was completed. Maintaining by mower, should help alleviate the previous issue.

New Jersey has an invasive species strike force ([www.njisst.org](http://www.njisst.org)) which is mapping invasive species and looking for volunteers.

**Volunteer needed to attend a Municipal Recycling & Clean Communities Coordinators recycling coordinators meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 23 at 9:30 a.m. The Clean Communities portion of the meeting will begin at 11 a.m., all are welcome to attend the entire meeting. The meeting will be held at the Morris County Library, 30 East Hanover Avenue, Whippany, NJ 07981. This will be the last meeting of the year. The meeting will be held in the large meeting room on the first floor of the library. F. Esposito is unable to attend due to a medical appointment.**

**The Commission Members at this meeting are unable to attend.**

- The MCMUA is conducting a Household Hazardous Waste and Used Consumer Electronics collection day event on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Ave, Parsippany. The event is from 9:00am until 2:00pm rain or shine, no appointments. Free.

Commission members reviewed the EC expense line items and thought that The Survey Monkey (gold plan) was not necessary and should be cancelled. If a survey is to be created, perhaps a basic survey should be the approach.

#### NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- What is the Township position on keeping bees? Bees are becoming stressed. The Morris County Mosquito Commission routinely sprays Bti from airplanes on many waterbodies in the county. Note that Roundup is once again considered a carcinogen by the FDA.

- Updated Environmental Commission enabling ordinance

Review the draft of the proposed updated ordinance. The current Township environmental commission ordinance was adopted in 1968 immediately after the State of New Jersey first passed a law enabling environmental commissions. The State subsequently refined its statute. The proposed updated Chatham Township ordinance conforms to current State law, includes the ANJEC recommendation to remove the provision that ECs can acquire property, includes a couple of changes found in the ordinances of other towns, and alters language to be gender-neutral ("he" to "he or she"). G. Crimmins.

- Wells in the Township

- Online information from the NJDEP.

- New and very good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer, not Chrome.

- Very good Morris County mapping utility at <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>, hit Map or Advanced Data Search. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.

- Discussion about requiring subdivision and site plans and related documents to be submitted in pdf format. If that happens CTEC should be on the list to receive all pdf plans and documents. Currently the township requires applicants to submit 25 paper copies of every sheet and document, which amounts to a large stack of paper and is costly for the applicant.

- Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area?

- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District ([www.mcsd.org/](http://www.mcsd.org/)) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of four Morris County towns that assumes the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.

- Note final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Option B was chosen. Hunting, including for turkeys, will be allowed, but no horses (riding, not hunting). Management areas will be consolidated into larger but fewer parcels. Public meetings were held in June. Read the Plan at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great\\_Swamp/what\\_we\\_do/conservation.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Swamp/what_we_do/conservation.html).

#### RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January, 2015. Letter to PSE&G urging denial of permission to use their ROW for the proposed Pilgrim pipeline.

- February, 2015. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning The Farm at Green Village suggesting conditions on the approval to better protect wetlands.

- March 2015. Memo to NJDEP urging oversight of JCP&L contractors doing vegetation removal in ROWs. Letter of support to NJDEP in support of GSWA's application for a 319 grant for stormwater remediation at Seaton Hackney.

- April, 2015. Memo to Planning Board noting more than double the existing impervious cover proposed for a subdivision on Rose Terrace.
- May, 2015. Letter to NJDEP urging caution in granting permits to Verizon for communication equipment at the base of a PSE&G tower on Southern Boulevard because of nearby wetlands. Memo to Board of Adjustment suggesting a conservation easement on steep slopes on a Susan Drive parcel.

#### EVENTS

- Sustainability Fair on Saturday, Sept. 12th from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. right next to the Farmer's Market at the Train Station.
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- ANJEC annual conference, Friday, Oct. 9. 9:00am to 4:30pm. Raritan Valley Community College Conference Center, 118 Lamington Road, Branchburg. \$65 for CTEC members. [anjec.org](http://anjec.org).

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 8:30

Carolyn Scannelli